

Rotation.—Heald states that mixed and overlapping rotations were found in Meifa and Asfal al 'Ain but, from careful enquiries, the following appeared to be the most popular:—Lucerne two years, followed by millet and the fourth year tobacco. If tobacco was not sown, the land was planted with another variety of millet. In some villages where lucerne was not grown, the rotation simply included tobacco and millet with sesame the third year. 242

In the Wadi Maseila the fields are constantly changed. One year a certain part of the wadi bed will be cultivated, stick huts and erections for drawing up the water built, and when the crop is harvested the Beduins move on elsewhere, returning again another season. Thus we frequently passed remains of cultivation, disused mud aqueducts and tumbled-down huts.

Diseases.—Heald states, "Excepting for the caterpillar attacking the young millet and tobacco, the crops were remarkably free from pests and disease; I carefully searched for stem borer in the millet but could find none, and also for the scale in the few citrus trees."

Trees and other vegetation of economic importance.

The 'elb (*Sida. Zizyphus Spina-Christi*, L.) has many uses. Apart from its blossoms, which are said to give the good taste to the Du'an honey, its fruit called *döm* is eaten extensively by the Beduins when dates are lacking. The beams, pillars and doors of Hadhramaut houses are made from the timber, and the supply and carriage of the trunks give much employment to the Beduins. It also supplies good firewood. It is a fodder tree, and the leaves are also used as a substitute for soap. 137 262 313 242 [387] ●

Sār, a palm tree (*Hyphaene thebaica* (L.) Mart.), from which the Beduins gather the leaves called *sif* for transport to the towns where they are made into mats, baskets, country string, etc. popular drink called *nebidh* is also procured from this tree. 137 314 295 272

The long-thorned *saur* (*Acacia spirocarpa* Hochst.) is perhaps the commonest tree in the Hadhramaut. It is a popular fodder for camels and is likewise eaten by goats. It supplies good firewood and a substance taken from the roots called *futakh* is used by fishermen for greasing their lines in order to make them strong. Another thorny tree, the *geradh* (*Acacia senegal* Willd.), is also a common fodder. Its leaves are used for tanning skins and it is said that the Beduins make a drink from them which they liken to tea. 137 246 314 302 272

The *musht* tree (*Grewia erythraea* Schweinf.), is used extensively for firewood and camel fodder. The leaves of the *ariata* tree (*Conocarpus erectus* Jacq.), which grows in the Wadi Maseila where it sometimes reaches a height of 50 to 70 feet, are dried for fodder, and the timber probably has its economic uses. I was told in Tarim of a large tree growing in Wadi Maseila the strong wood of which is used by carpenters; this may have been the *ariata*. 137 314 246 272